(d) which of the factories situated at Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly directly discharge effluents in the river which causes this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Ramganga river originates in Almora district of Uttarakhand and merges with river Ganga near Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh. As per monitoring carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the water quality of river Ramganga before its confluence with Ganga near Kannauj is not conforming with the prescribed water quality criteria. The Government has not received any report regarding death of thousands of cattle due to pollution of river Ramganga.

Pollution from industries on the banks of river is monitored by the CPCB and the concerned State Pollution Control Boards. Action is taken against defaulting industries under relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. CPCB has identified 21 grossly polluting industries in Moradabad, Rampur and Bareilly which directly discharge their effluent in river Ramganga. Out of these 21 industries, 17 industries have installed effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and are meeting the discharge standards, while the remaining 4 industries are closed due to various reasons.

Rivers polluted in Assam

1681. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rivers in Assam have got polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government would consider to constitute a task force to study the rivers of the States, with a view to stop pollution therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) based on their water quality monitoring reports of rivers, the polluted locations are river Bharalu at Guwahati, river Deepar Bill at Guwahati and river Burhidihing at Duliajan. Besides, occasional violation from desired standards has been noticed in respect of river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa, Nimaighat, Pandu, Kherghat and Dhubri, river Mora Bharali at Tezpur, river Digboi at Lakhipathe, river Disang at Dibrugarh and Gundamghat, river Kolong at Marigaon and upstream of Anandram Dekian Phukan Bridge, river Kundli at spakhowa and river Manas at Barpeta.

(c) and (d) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments towards cleaning of polluted rivers by providing assistance for creation of pollution abatement infrastructure. The centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for conservation of polluted rivers

in the country presently covers identified polluted stretches of 37 rivers at 166 towns spread over 20 States. No proposal has been received from the State Government for inclusion of river of Assam under the NRCP.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Assam are taking necessary measures under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to tackle pollution in the rivers from industrial sources. The CPCB and SPCB are also implementing a mutually agreed time-bound plan for fulfillment of commitments under Corporate Responsibility on Environment Protection (CREP). A special drive for 17 categories of industries, monitoring of discharge of grossly polluting industries, setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for cluster of small scale industries, promotion of low-waste and no-waste technologies and Environmental Auditing of polluting industries are also being undertaken.

Violation of rules in environmental clearances

1682. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several NGOs have urged Government to look into the violation of rules while giving environmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to ensure transparency in the environmental clearance process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Ministry in the past, received some communications from NGOs complaining about the violation of rules regarding matters such as non-implementation of conditions stipulated in the environment clearance letter, non adherence to the prescribed standards, change in scope of the project and change of project location. The complaints regarding violations are duly examined and wherever necessary, site inspections are got conducted through the Regional Offices of this Ministry as also the Central / State / Union Territory Pollution Control Boards. Inputs from the respective State Governments are also obtained whenever required. The matters like those relating to change of scope of the project or change of location, any complaints received before the grant of Environment Clearance (EC) are referred to the Expert Appraisal Committees for obtaining their recommendations before taking a decision.

(c) and (d) In order to increase transparency in the clearance process, the information has been put in public domain, through the website of the Ministry, relating to (i) status of pending projects, (ii) schedule and agenda of the meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs), (iii) minutes of the EAC meeting, (iv) Environmental Clearance letters and (v) circulars, guidelines, instructions relating to Environmental Clearance.